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OCTOBER 2, 1918.

GERMANY'S PEACE LEAGUE.

It is extremely edifying to find Germany solemnly proposing a league of nations to maintain world-peace. The plan is put forward by Matthias Erzberger, a leader of the Centrist party in the reichstag. There is little doubt that he is the mouthpiece of the government, for Chancellor von Hertling himself, in a recent address to the reichstag, suggested the same policy which Erzberger outlines in detail.

There is to be a group of world-powers, banded together in a federation, permitting each to retain its autonomy, but using the combined power of all to make members behave themselves and prevent outsiders from making trouble. There is to be a court of arbitration, to whose verdicts every member must submit. There is to be a reduction of armament. Armies and navies are to be used only for policing purposes.

This is precisely what the allies have been planning ever since they attained unity of thought and purpose in their war against German aggression. It is what the United States has been urging for years. It is what President Wilson is demanding as the first duty of the peace conference at the close of the war. It is undoubtedly the very thing that will be done, in order to insure that there shall never be a repetition of this war, but it is not at all plain that Germany is going to have anything to do with it; especially the Germany of today or yesterday. It must be the new Germany of tomorrow if at all.

Herr Erzberger is transparently trying to steal the allies' thunder and juggle Germany into the place of leadership in the new system. He has the audacity to prescribe the charter membership of the federation. It is to consist of Germany, France, Great Britain, the United States and Russia. Others might be admitted later, but these are the only powers mentioned.

Germany as the head of a world peace federation—this indeed is a sublime subject for contemplation! Germany, the most militaristic and criminal nation of recorded history, her hands stained with the blood of uncounted millions, her pockets stuffed with the treasure of ruined nations, her armies and leaders still unpunished for their sins, showing no sign of repentance or thought of restitution, posing as an imperial "Prince of Peace" to lead the world into the way of righteousness! As Artemus Ward used to say, "This is a match."

There is already in existence a league to enforce peace. The allies constitute that league. Its present purpose is to crush Germany, the master-criminal, as the necessary pre-requisite of establishing its beneficent system on a solid and lasting basis. It is quite capable of doing its work and laying its future plans without any impertinent help from the Hun.

PRISONERS OF WAR.

The most remarkable feature of the recent fighting has been the number of enemy prisoners taken by the allies. The "bags" of the Germans in their victorious progress of last spring and summer have already been greatly surpassed. There has been nothing to compare with it since the gigantic successes and disasters of the Russian army in the first two years of the war.

It is impossible to give precise figures because the lists are not reported promptly, and the totals change so rapidly from day to day. We shall not go far wrong, however, if we estimate that in the two and a half months from the launching of Marshal Foch's offensive up to the end of September, the British and French have each captured about 100,000, the Americans nearly 50,000 and the Italians, 3,000. In Palestine Gen. Allenby has taken around 50,000. In Macedonia the allies have rounded up probably 20,000. In Siberia the Czechoslovaks and the allied expeditions have taken considerable numbers, most of whom after being disarmed have been turned loose. Perhaps 20,000 altogether would be a moderate guess.

These figures, it will be seen, add up to about 350,000. That is at the rate of nearly 140,000 a month. There is no reason to suppose that the pace cannot be kept up. Add that number to the 300,000 a month that we are sending to France, remembering that the allies' losses by capture are now almost negligible, and you have a net gain of no less than 400,000 men a month in the relative strength of the allies and the central empires.

Now just for your own satisfaction, figure out the additional superiority that will give up by next summer, and estimate the resultant chances that Germany and Austria—not to mention their little bad brothers—will have of surviving the summer.

OUR BAND MARSHAL.

There is a general impression that all the conductors of American symphony orchestras have been confined in internment camps as dangerous aliens. There is considerable ground for this impression. It is true that most of the distinguished exponents of musical culture that formerly shed their Teutonic light on our benighted land have had to be penned up to keep them from spreading Hun propaganda, and aiding and abetting the usual manifestations of pettish and crime that Germany expects from her musicians no less than her diplomats.

Let us not forget, then, that there is a notable exception. Walter Damrosch of the New York Symphony orchestra, a German born in Germany, is in France serving the American cause to the best of his large ability. Last spring he went across and volunteered his

services to the American expeditionary force. Gen. Pershing tried him out, found that he was of the right stuff and calibre, and finally appointed him general band marshal in charge of all the American military bands.

He is expected to reorganize those bands and raise them to parity with the French military bands, which have the reputation of being the best in the world.

His salary, needless to say, is much smaller than the one he relinquished. There are ample compensations, though. In that important post he shines all the brighter through contrast with his brother-musicians who betrayed the country that gave them welcome, appreciation and prosperity.

THE CANNING VICTORY.

The magnitude of our canning victory continues to grow, along with our purely military victories. It seemed like an ambitious objective that the department of agriculture set last spring for the season's canning—1,500,000,000 quarts of fruits and vegetables to be put up for winter use. Now it is reported that this huge total will be surpassed. That means about 75 quarts per family, which is undoubtedly the highest average attained for decades.

There is a 50 percent increase this year in the number of firms that manufacture supplies for the canning army. There is an increase of 25 percent in the quantity of canning equipment sold. The demand for rubber rings for fruit jars has increased 300 percent over last year.

It is one of the most successful of our voluntary war achievements. It helps literally to win the war, by conserving immense quantities of food that otherwise would have spoiled, by providing a plentiful supply of food during the winter and releasing other foodstuffs to send to our allies, and by holding down food prices and enabling us to put more of our money into war loans.

An English newspaper calls the Kaiser's hair-apparent the "Half-Crown Prince." Altogether too complimentary! A half-crown is worth twice as much as 20 cents. We'll stick to "Clown Prince," with "Hot-Air-Apparent" for variety.

Turkey, the tail of the German snake, is still wagging a little, but the sun will soon go down.

Other Editors Than Ours

GERMAN IN CHURCH.
(Indiana Daily Times.)

The villages of Brussels, Calhoun county, Illinois, have decided that an American church is no place in which to preach sermons in the German language. Before the war came to America there was preaching in German by the pastor of the St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran church of Brussels. The sermon, singing and praying was done in German. The church members were of German parentage.

But shortly after the United States went to war some of the 60 members of that congregation started a righteous wave of loyal American objection to anything German. These church members asked the pastor to preach his sermons in English, and asked that songs and prayers be in English. He refused, and continued using the language of the Kaiser's Huns.

One by one the congregation quit that church because of the Germanism on the tongue of the pastor. Today only six members of the 60 hear those German language sermons and sing those German words and bow their heads in German prayers. The 54 Americans have hired a preacher of their own and now hold services in English in the village school house. They have asked the Illinois council of defense to take measures to stop the German speaking pastor from using the German language in what was their place of worship.

By way of emphasis let us call attention to the names of some of the 54 who refuse to listen to German sermons, German prayers and German songs in an American church—Kulp, Goetze, Kinder, Nolte, Krause, Herrmann, Wieneke, Moerlein.

All of which is interesting in view of the recent action of the Indiana state council of defense which adopted resolutions condemning the preaching of sermons in the German language in our churches.

A COMPLIMENT TO MR. KITCHIN.
(New York Tribune, Rep.)

Mr. Kitchin, chairman of the ways and means committee, deserves to be congratulated on his presentation of the eight-billion dollar revenue bill. It was fair and large and sound. At one point he stated the whole case in principle. It was not a fifth nor a quarter nor a third of the war bill that should be paid by current taxes, he said, but all that was possible; and the limit of taxation should be only the impossible.

So we believe, so we think every one believes who looks deeply into the question and sees the dangers that pile up as inflation proceeds. Borrowing tends to produce inflation. It cannot be helped. Taxation tends to check inflation and to keep down the cost of the war.

"The type of congressman that never missed a chance to filibuster is about extinct," says the Washington Star. The Star, in qualifying its expression with "about," must have had in mind Sen. Weeks of Massachusetts who is still on the scene. But very still since his shipping board filibuster held up the country's shipbuilding program two years.—New York World.

Rep. Foss of Ohio, who asserts that a republican congress is essential to a "war to the finish," would be better able to hold his audience if the American people would only overlook the fact that it is the republican party which has given renomination to Sen. Norris of Nebraska.—New York Herald.

THE AIRCRAFT POOL.
(Kalamazoo Gazette.)

The signs are that a pooling of the aviation resources of Great Britain, France, Italy and the United States is being effected by Asst. Sec'y of War John D. Ryan, who is now in London. How far coordination may be carried is not clear, but the chances are that it will develop along the line of specialization, in which a beginning had already been made. If each country produces in quantity what it can produce best, each working for the other's, there would be an increased economy of effort all around with ampler results. The present situation in our own air service seems to have been summarized in an announcement made this week by the war department. America has now built 1,200 De-Havilland planes, which are being successfully used on the Lorraine sector, and 6,000 Liberty motors, not to mention 12,500 engines and 6,000 planes for training purposes. While this is hardly more than a good beginning for the heavy bombing planes are not yet in quantity production, the worst of our aircraft troubles seem to have been passed. Before spring comes the airplane program will no doubt be very far advanced.

MORE APOLOGUES DUE!
(Indianapolis Times.)

There probably will be considerable weeping, waiting and gnashing of teeth in certain partisan quarters—none more notable than right here in Indianapolis—over the report of the department of justice investigators absolving the men in charge of the Hog Island shipyard of charges of graft and huge profit-taking.

While the obstructionist press was knocking the Hog Island officials they continued "sawing wood" and today there stands a monument to Yankee ingenuity and labor where once was a swamp.

It would seem to the man on the fence that here is another occasion for apologies from the "knockers" just as in the case of the detractors of the war department and the secretary of war.

THE MELTING POT

"Come Take Pot Luck With Us"

LITTLE BOBBIE'S PA.

By William F. Kirk.

I was talking to a Irishman today, rite. I mite have known it befoar sed Pa, wen he cam hoam last nite. We had quite a argument.

I suppos it was about Hoam Rule, sed Ma. No, sed Pa, it was about that grate General, Mister Mangin. My friend Casey sed he was Irish, sed Pa, he sed the General's rite naim was McGinn. I sed No, & that is how the argument beegan.

You are in big bizness argying about a man's naim on a hot day like this, sed Ma. I shud think you & yure Irish frend cud find sumthing moar noabler to do.

That is what I toald him, sed Pa, but he wud argue. I doant see how peepul git that way, sed Pa. I dectect arguments myself & never have one wen I can git out of it.

I have often notised that, sed Ma. Wich one of you won the argument?

It was a draw, sed Pa. We both tho't the salm wen we finished as wen we started. McGinn, Ha, Ha, sed Pa. The man's naim is Mangin & the C is silent, sed Pa. But Casey wasent silent, sed Pa, you cud have herd him talk a block away.

You are a grate old bird, sed Ma, getting all worked up oaver a naim. Why dident you levee it to a police man? sed Ma.

We left it to three (3) poleeas, sed Pa, but thay all sed Casey was

rite. I mite have known it befoar we left it to them, sed Pa.

Well, sed Ma, whatever his naim is he seems to be sum leader.

Yes, indeed, sed Pa. He is using many of them tack-ticks wich I used to use agenset the Injuns in the West, sed Pa. Creep up & soak 'em, sed Pa. Sneek up & choke 'em. That was the way I put them out of bizness in the Golden West, Pa sed.

It is too bad you cant see this Mister Mangin & put him on the rite track, sed Ma.

I may be oaver thare yet, sed Pa. You peever can tell. Doant cry, deerest, sed Pa. We must all malk sakrificees.

I wasent crying, sed Ma. I was laffing.

At what are you laffing at? sed Pa.

At yure trip across the bound- ing billows, sed Ma. I can jest see you gitting into ackshun along with your frend, General McGinn, sed Ma.

Mangin, sed Pa. Not McGinn.

Not aether on, I guess, sed Ma. I doant thing you wud be abel to talk off all that ower weight of yures, sed Ma, inside of three years, & surely by that time the Germans will be crushed by General McGinn.

Mangin, sed Pa.

The Crime of Profiteering

By Hamlin Garland

To my mind, one of the noblest phases of this war is the outburst of generous giving on the part of the great merchants and manufacturers of America. It would be an injustice not to admit this.

The impulse which leads a man to forego a salary of seventy-five thousand dollars per annum or to neglect an enormous business for a position on the government roll at one dollar per year is magnificent. I for one am not disposed to cavil or criticize by saying: "It is easy to give up a salary of that size because it argues a wealth which is sufficient without it." I am willing to grant the fine spirit which leads men like Baruch, Rosenwald, Crane and House to give of their time and money and genius to the cause for which we are fighting. My only care is to see that I give in the same proportion and in the same mood.

Without doubt there is less of conscienceless profiteering in this war than in either the Civil war or the Spanish war, but having granted this, we are still confronted with the fact that there are in America today a great many men seeking ways to levy tribute on those who are unable to elude their demands. The shopkeeper no less than the manufacturer, the pork-packer as well as the cotton grower, are in this attack on the pockets of the consumer. The process in the case of manufactured articles is simple. Take, for convenient example, shoes. It is true that hides are somewhat higher, that labor is costlier, but as a matter of fact a few cents will pay for the difference in the cost of the shoes on which the retailer now asks a profit of four dollars. He has doubled the price, not because he must but because he can. This is a crime and should be punished as such.

No one will object to a fair profit on the part of the manufacturer and the dealer, but to this remorseless profiteering the government must put a stop. It is taking an unfair advantage of purchasers who are helpless to protest—or whose individual protests carry no weight.

The profiteering principle extends to the smallest articles—a lead pencil, for another instance. Pencils save gone from five to ten cents not because the extra lead costs a fraction of a cent more, but because to raise the price from five cents to a dime is the dealers notion of a proper war profit. There is some excuse for a salaried man or a wage earner who demands an increase in pay, for the leaping cost of living is forcing such demands, but there is no valid excuse for the man who merely seeks to increase his profits. It is a crime against the helpless when dealers and manufacturers deliberately conspire against the families of the soldiers who have gone away to fight against a military despotism. Their families must be protected against the profiteer at home.

Much can be done by the government by laws rigidly enforced, but still more can be done by a system of ostracism, of social condemnation. We can add to the rising spirit of generous forbearance by recognizing it wherever we find it, and we can make profiteering odious as well as against the law, by openly condemning those who practice it.

To me there is something peculiarly repulsive in the greedy spirit of the profiteer. I can excuse the German spy for it is conceivable that he is working under orders like a soldier, I can forgive the enemy alien for after all his heart is German or Austrian, but for the man who takes advantage of his fellow citizens in time of war I have a deep hatred. He is to me a traitor to all that is fine and generous in American manhood, an enemy citizen doing the work of the Kaiser quite as effectively as though he carried a gun. His action is a crime and should be so treated by society and by the department of justice.

These are times when bravery

and generosity are in the ascendant. As the war goes on the need of these great virtues will increase, but also and alas! the opportunity for profiteering will augment and unless some check is placed upon it we will all feel the pinch of the profiteering greedy claw. We must back up the government in its work but we should also characterize clearly and strongly our hatred of the robber no matter where he may be found.

GEORGE D. BEBOTH.

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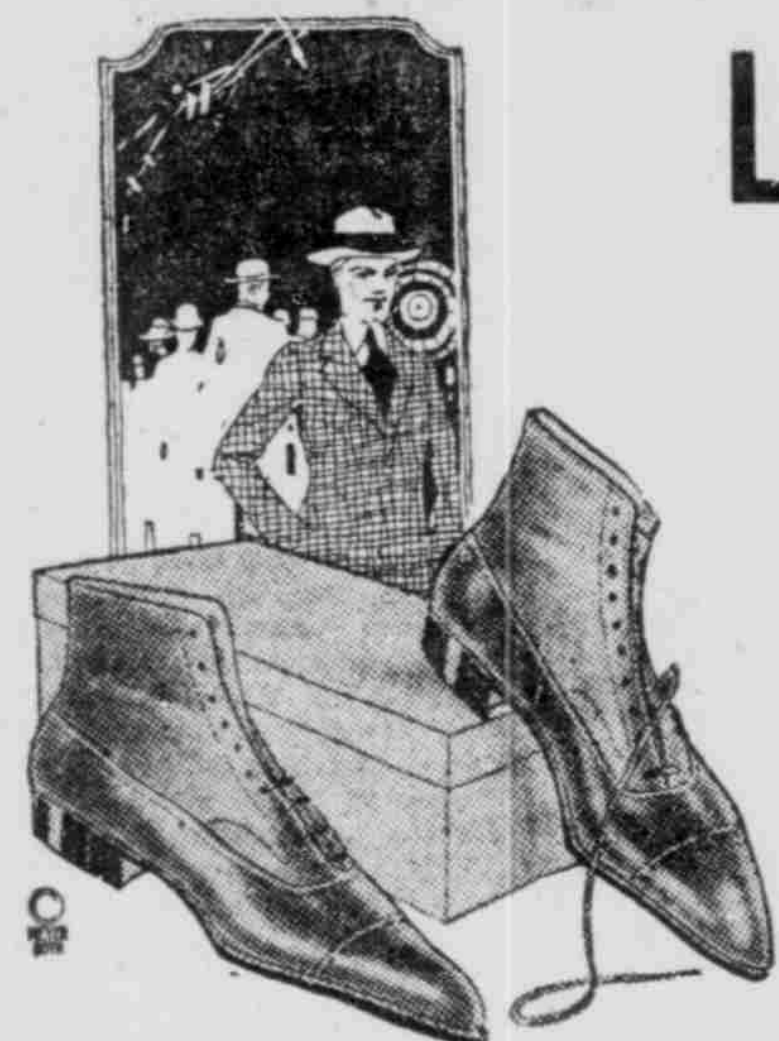
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